

Algebra 1A Syllabus  
School Year 2014-2015  
Meghan Scheld  
Contact: [mscheld@latinpcs.org](mailto:mscheld@latinpcs.org)

## Welcome to Algebra!

For Math, an inquiry-based approach will be used to trigger your natural curiosity. The class will use the 7<sup>th</sup> grade green Prentice Hall Algebra 1 textbook, through chapter 6. Math concepts and skills will be taught in a “real-world” context. The class will learn together to make sense of mathematics and how algebraic thinking differs from arithmetic thinking.

## Expectations:

I have three basic expectations for each student in the classroom. We have reviewed these expectations in class, so please speak to your student about them.

- 1) Track the speaker and THINK while actively listening
- 2) Silence when someone is speaking and during independent work time
- 3) Participate and try your best

The third expectation is the most important to me. I believe that learning Algebra is a process and cannot be mastered or completely understood overnight. Students need time to grasp the concepts and apply them to their every day “real-world” lives. This means that students will become frustrated with the skills and concepts but they to try and complete all work that is given to them. Without trying and failing, at times, the students will not learn from their mistakes.

## Course Content:

These main topics, in order, will be covered, but are not limited to:

- ⇒ Variables and Real Numbers
- ⇒ Rational Numbers
- ⇒ Probability and Statistics
- ⇒ Solving Equations
- ⇒ Geometry
- ⇒ Inequalities
- ⇒ Ratio and Proportions
- ⇒ Linear Functions

## Grading Criteria:

**Assessments (40%):** Unit tests and projects.

**Quizzes (35%):** The students will be taking weekly quizzes.

**Participation (15%):** Students will have a weekly participation grade.

**Homework (10%):** Students will receive homework every day, and weekends.

## **Grading Policy:**

Quizzes, homework assignments, projects, class work, and class participation all determine grades. Class grades will be based on the percentage of total points earned (points earned divided by the total points possible). Bonus points will be available occasionally. I encourage all students to attempt all bonus opportunities.

Daily, active participation is absolutely essential in this class. Students must bring all materials to class and actively and cooperatively participate in all classroom activities. I encourage all students to try their hardest and show their work at all times.

## **Retake Policy:**

As a math department, we value student learning. For this reason, we believe that students should have the opportunity to use assessments as learning tools. We encourage students to review their tests and quizzes with their teachers in order to learn from their mistakes. Additionally, students have the option to retake one test (not quiz) per semester if they score below an 85%. Students must schedule a time to meet with the teacher AND complete test corrections (for no credit) before a retake to demonstrate that they have made the effort to understand the concepts. Retakes must be completed within two weeks of the original test and will be taken either during a study hall or in tutorial. The teacher will average the two grades to determine the test grade. This averaged grade will cap at 85%.

## **Homework Policy:**

The amount of homework students will have each day will vary depending upon the topic and the depth we cover the topic in class. The expectation is that homework will be done every night. The students will set homework up in their notebooks the same way each night. An example is given at the beginning of the year. Most homework assignments will be from their textbooks. No unexcused late homework will be accepted.

**Please sign and date the statement below and return just this page to Ms. Scheld by Friday August 29, 2014.**

Student Name:\_\_\_\_\_ Period:\_\_\_\_\_

## **Syllabus Agreement:**

My signature below indicates that I have read and understand this syllabus and have been give a copy of my own to keep.

## **Textbook Agreement:**

Expectations:

1. This book will be kept in a safe and clean space.
2. This book will be kept at home and brought to school only when necessary.
3. You will not write in this book, only in your notebooks.
4. This book will be returned in the same condition at the end of the year. If the Algebra textbook is not returned, you will be responsible for it's replacement.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Student Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/Guardian Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)